

House Resolution 646

By: Representatives Smith of the 129th and Sheldon of the 105th

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Georgia Department of
2 Transportation should develop a strategic plan for building a maglev train connecting
3 Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta, along Interstate 75, with the Chattanooga Municipal
4 Airport (Lovell Field), to be known as the "The Plane Train"; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Hartsfield-Jackson Airport is close to reaching its maximum operating capacity;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, it is unlikely that any political subdivision in the state would allow a new
8 international airport to be built in its jurisdiction; and

9 WHEREAS, many residents in North Georgia and visitors to our state complain that the
10 Atlanta airport is too far away and does not serve their needs; and

11 WHEREAS, any trip to Hartsfield-Jackson Airport from North Georgia necessarily involves
12 delays due to the congestion encountered while traveling through the metropolitan Atlanta
13 area; and

14 WHEREAS, a magnetic levitating, or maglev, train is a form of transportation that levitates,
15 guides, and propels vehicles using electromagnetic force. This method is faster than wheeled
16 mass transit systems, potentially reaching velocities comparable to turboprop and jet aircraft;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, one advantage of maglev's higher speed would be extension of the serviceable
19 area (3 hours radius) that can outcompete subsonic commercial aircraft; and

20 WHEREAS, high-speed maglev is safe, environmentally friendly, and energy efficient,
21 reducing pollution, transportation fatalities, and reliance on foreign oil; and

22 WHEREAS, both past and current studies by the Atlanta Regional Commission and the
23 Georgia Department of Transportation have validated the feasibility of implementing a
24 revenue-producing maglev system in this corridor with potential regional extensions to other
25 parts of the state and other states.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 it is the sense of this body that the Department of Transportation should develop a strategic
28 plan to construct a high-speed (240 MPH and above) maglev system or "Plane Train"
29 connecting Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta with Lovell Field in Chattanooga using
30 proven commercially available and readily deployable high-speed maglev systems similar
31 to the maglev system currently in operation in Shanghai, China.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the Department of Transportation to
33 report to the House of Representatives by September 30, 2009, on its progress in developing
34 this plan.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of the
37 Georgia Department of Transportation and to each member of the State Transportation
38 Board.